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TO ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE

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RHEHAAA/WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE 3059

RHEHNSC/NSC WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE 9735

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RHMFIS/COMSOCEUR VAIHINGEN GE IMMEDIATE

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RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

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RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC//J-1//J-3:JOD// IMMEDIATE

RHMFIS/CDR USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL IMMEDIATE

RUMIAAA/HQ USSOUTHCOM J2 MIAMI FL IMMEDIATE

RHMFIS/HQ USSOUTHCOM J3 MIAMI FL IMMEDIATE

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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 STATE 016275

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SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: MGKV01: KOSOVO MONITORING GROUP SITUATION REPORT
NO. 01

KOSOVO DECLARES INDEPENDENCE, REQUESTS RECOGNITION

11. (SBU) In televised proceedings, PM Thaci underscored his commitment to building a multi-ethnic, European state and underlined Kosovo is not a precedent for other conflicts. U.S. Office Pristina reports President Sejdiu officially requested the United States recognize Kosovo and establish full diplomatic relations. Post notes the texts of the declaration of independence and Sejdiu's letter were exactly as expected. (Kosovo Monitoring Group/U.S. Office Pristina telcon, Pristina 76)

SECURITY SITUATION CALM

12. (SBU) According to U.S. Office Pristina's contacts at KFOR and UNMIK/P, the security situation throughout Kosovo is calm and orderly. Embassy Belgrade reports Serbian police turned away 15-20 protestors attempting to cross

into Kosovo. (Kosovo Monitoring Group/U.S. Office
Pristina telcon, Kosovo Monitoring Group/Embassy Belgrade
telcon)

RUSSIA CALLS FOR UNSC EMERGENCY SESSIONS

¶3. (SBU) USUN reports initial closed consultations are scheduled for 1300 EST. According to Embassy Belgrade, Serbian PM Kostunica's office said it "has not yet been decided" whether President Tadic or Kostunica would attend open sessions February 18. (Ops/USUN telcon, Kosovo Monitoring Group/Embassy Belgrade telcon)

SERBIAN REACTION MUTED, POST PERSONNEL SAFE

¶4. (SBU) PM Kostunica called the declaration null and void, but urged Serbs to "leave violence to the violators," according to Embassy Belgrade. Public reaction in Belgrade has been muted; 50 to 100 demonstrators briefly protested in front of Embassy Belgrade. (Kosovo Monitoring Group/Embassy Belgrade e-mail)

REGIONAL REACTION

¶5. (SBU) Bosnia: Embassy Sarajevo reports the Serb member of the Bosnian Presidency announced BiH would never recognize Kosovo. The situation in Bosnia is calm, with a small protest in central Banja Luka, but no significant reactions elsewhere in the country. (Kosovo Monitoring Group/Embassy Sarajevo e-mail)

¶6. (SBU) Albania: Embassy Tirana reports large but orderly
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celebrations in Tirana and throughout Albania. (Kosovo Monitoring Group/Embassy Tirana e-mail)

¶7. (SBU) Slovenia: Embassy Ljubljana reports a group of 50 to 100 protestors may be heading towards post. (Ops/Embassy Ljubljana telcon)

¶8. (U) Minimize Considered.
RICE